

## News Release

Education Information Services ■ 125 South Webster Street ■ P.O. Box 7841 ■ Madison, WI 53707-7841 ■ (608) 266-3559

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DPI-NR 2012-33

Thursday, February 9, 2012

Contact: Patrick Gasper, DPI Communications Officer, (608) 266-3559

### Evers statement on education legislation introduced today

MADISON — State Superintendent Tony Evers issued a statement on proposed education legislation that was introduced today.

“I am pleased that the leaders of the Assembly and Senate education committees have introduced legislation that incorporates the on-going work of my Educator Effectiveness Design Team. This group of leaders from a broad range of education stakeholders, including administrators, teacher and school board associations as well as higher education institutions, is now working on piloting an educator evaluation system that is centered on student learning, and is fair, valid, and reliable. Our performance-based evaluation system will support teachers and principals in their job of educating students and help our educators improve throughout their careers.

Also, the aspects of this legislation that relate to reading instruction and literacy are based on an agreed path forward to improve reading results for our children.

“However, this legislation misses the opportunity to deliver action on the words of Governor Walker, legislative leaders, and education leaders, including the leaders of School Choice Wisconsin and the Wisconsin Charter Schools Association, which launched the effort to design a statewide accountability system.

We believe that every school enrolling publicly funded students — traditional public schools, charter schools, or private schools in choice programs — should be part of this new accountability system. Too often, Wisconsin’s education reform conversation has centered around which type of school is better, instead of how to ensure a world-class education for all Wisconsin children, regardless of which school they attend. Ultimately, nothing is more important than student learning and we believe all schools should be held accountable for this above all else.<sup>i</sup>

“While everyone claimed that we were creating this system together, it seems as if some have walked away. This missed opportunity is more than a step backward. Today’s inaction leaves absolutely unclear whether the choice schools and charter schools receiving tens of millions of dollars in public funding will have public

(more)

accountability. It looks as if the common accountability system that last summer seemed agreed upon may not happen.

“The Department of Public Instruction will continue our work on the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) waiver to the federal government to provide a fair accountability system that increases performance in all public schools.”

###

**NOTE:** This statement is available electronically at [http://dpi.wi.gov/eis/pdf/dpinr2012\\_33.pdf](http://dpi.wi.gov/eis/pdf/dpinr2012_33.pdf).

---

<sup>i</sup> “Accountability for schools: Diverse group promises to work together to forge new system,” Scott Walker, Tony Evers, Luther Olsen, Steve Kestell, John Ashley, John Gee, Matt Kussow, Jim Lynch, James Bender, Gary Myrah, Miles Turner, Woody Wiedenhoeft. Milwaukee Journal Sentinel, July 9, 2011, <http://www.jsonline.com/news/opinion/125246789.html>. (Accessed: February 9, 2012) Copy: [http://dpi.wi.gov/eis/pdf/accountability\\_editorial.pdf](http://dpi.wi.gov/eis/pdf/accountability_editorial.pdf).